



Internet Universality Beyond Words

On the occasion of the International Day for Universal Access to Information

28 September 2018, Thailand Creative Design Center (TCDC)

On the occasion of the International Day for Universal Access to Information #AccessToInfoDay on 28 September 2018, UNESCO is launching a collaborative exhibition on the concept of Internet Universality to call for ensuring public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms.

In line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, in particular the Goal 16, the exhibition aims at raising public awareness on the importance of Internet that works for all and is based on human rights (R), openness (O), accessibility (A) and multi-stakeholder participation (M) – known as the ROAM principles.

The event will start with a round table discussion with experts, artists and culture professionals to explore the status of artistic freedom in Thailand and possible measures to promote the artistic freedom including their mobility, economic and social rights.

BACKGROUND

The open nature of Internet is a benefit to freedom of expression and access to information, but it does have challenges. Hate speech, harassment and the leaking of personal information are dangerous hazards that can potentially affect every Internet user. Across all regions, a rise has been observed in the filtering of content, blocking of websites, and blanket Internet shutdowns, and often without well-defined legal basis¹. In 2015 UNESCO adopted the concept of Internet Universality to highlight features of the Internet which UNESCO believes are fundamental to fulfilling its potential for universal access to information and sustainable development. It recognizes that the Internet is much more than infrastructure and applications. It is a network of economic and social interactions and relationships, which has great potential to enable rights, empower individuals and communities.

The exhibition will present the works of 11 artists and creators who took part in the UNESCO workshop on Internet Universality in May 2018. It highlights their unique perspectives on issues surrounding the Internet ecosystem in Southeast Asia. Integrated throughout their creative works are the UNESCO's

¹ *World Trends in Freedom of Expression and Media Development: Global Report 2017/18*

ROAM principles of Internet Universality, which refers to an Internet that is based on human rights (R), openness (O), accessibility (A) and multi-stakeholder participation (M).

The event will start with a round table discussion with experts, artists and culture professionals to explore the status of artistic freedom in Thailand and possible measures to promote the artistic freedom including their mobility, economic and social rights. UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005) offers a useful framework to build policies and actions to provide artists with an enabling environment to create and promote their work. This is especially beneficial for Thailand, where cultural and creative sector has grown dramatically over the past 15 years following the adoption of the Creative Economy Policy and currently plays an important role in the country's socio-economic life.

The event will take place in Thailand Creative Design Center (TCDC) which was behind the campaign "Creative Thailand: Building Thailand's Economy with Creativity" with an aim to create public awareness toward the creative economy and promote the creative industries as key factors for economic development. This aligns with the 2005 Convention which advocates for the contribution of the creative sector to socio-economic growth and job creation, especially for young and emerging artists.

OBJECTIVES

- Raising public awareness on the importance of creating an enabling environment for freedom of expression online that respects the vision of Internet Universality and its associated ROAM principles
- Strengthening dialogue and networking with artists and culture professionals on artistic freedom and rights within the framework of UNESCO Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005)

PROGRAMME

	Venue: TCDC Function Room (4 th floor)
4.00-5.30 pm	<p>Round table discussion on artistic freedom</p> <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms Duong Bich Hanh, UNESCO Bangkok • Ms Misako Ito, UNESCO Bangkok • Mr Wee Viraporn, <i>Watch!</i> • Mr Paphop Kerdsup, <i>The Books of Languages</i> • Ms Nippita Pongern, <i>My Virtual Playground</i> • Mr Siriwat Pokrajen, <i>Internet Universality</i> • Mr Sorayos Prapapan, film producer • Mr Pen-ek Ratanaruang, film director and screenwriter • Ms Anucha Boonyawatana, film director <p>Moderated by Ms Sali Sasaki, Design consultant, researcher and exhibition curator</p>

5.30 pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Launch of the exhibition on Internet Universality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Kittiratana Pitipanich, Managing Director, TCDC • Ms Misako Ito, UNESCO Bangkok
	Venue: TCDC Rooftop (5 th floor)
	<p style="text-align: center;">Visit of the exhibition and cocktail reception</p> <p>The exhibition will be open to the visitors of TCDC from 28 September to 14 October 2018, from 10:30 to 21:00 everyday except on Monday.</p>

SPEAKERS

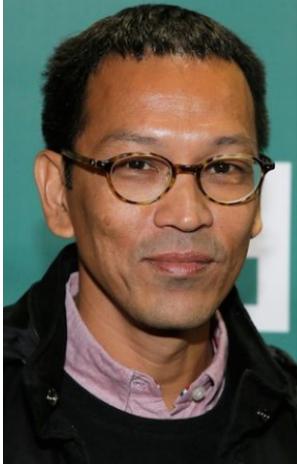
	<p>Duong Bich Hanh</p> <p>Duong Bich Hanh is an anthropologist with extensive knowledge and experience in Southeast Asia and international development. She joined UNESCO in 2009 to manage the culture program in the Ha Noi Office and moved to the Bangkok Office in 2016 to cover the culture program in the Mekong cluster countries and coordinate a number of regional projects in Southeast Asia and the Asia-Pacific. Her work involves the promotion for ratification and implementation of UNESCO’s six cultural conventions, which includes the 2005 Convention for the Protection and Promoting the Diversity of Cultural Expressions. The Convention shapes the design and implementation of policies and measures that support the creation, production, distribution and access to cultural goods and services, and ultimately provides a new framework for informed, transparent and participatory systems of governance for culture.</p>
	<p>Misako Ito</p> <p>Misako Ito is an engineer in information technology graduated from the Ecole des Mines and HEC School of Management in Paris. She works as Advisor for Communication and Information at UNESCO Office in Bangkok, and is responsible for UNESCO’s programme on Communication and Information. She also coordinates the UNESCO Memory of the World programme for safeguarding documentary heritage in Asia and the Pacific. Before joining Bangkok, she worked for six years in Rabat, Morocco, in providing advisory services for media development, its legislation on freedom of information as well as for the media and information literacy policies in Algeria, Morocco, Mauritania and Tunisia. Before joining UNESCO, she worked for the French Development Agency and the Institute of Research for Development in Guinea, Gabon and Senegal for the development of environmental information management tools.</p>

	<p>Wee Viraporn</p> <p>Wee Viraporn is the Founder and Design Director of Conscious, a small design studio specialized in environmental graphic design. The studio has designed wayfinding and signage systems for major names in both the public and private sectors.</p> <p>As an advisor to Thai Graphic Designers Association (ThaiGa), he supports community driven projects such as the redesign of Bangkok bus stop signage and took part in activities that aim to stimulate awareness and educate the public and enthusiasts about graphic design in Thailand. His personal interest in pixel art has led to many outstanding post-it murals in places around Bangkok.</p>
	<p>Paphop Kerdsup</p> <p>Paphop Graf Kerdsup received his Bachelor of Architecture from Chulalongkorn University. His interest revolves around alternative practices in architecture including architectural narratives expressed through fictions and films, architectural criticism and curatorial practice, and the relationship between architecture and print media. He is currently an associate editor for art4d magazine.</p>
	<p>Nippita Pongern</p> <p>Nippita Pongern (Medfai) is currently a 3rd year student in Communication Design at Chulalongkorn University. Fascinated by all forms of art and design, Nippita decided to enroll in Communication Design with the ambition of becoming a graphic designer and illustrator. Photography, illustrations, handcrafts and publishing have always been her main interests as well as her specialty areas.</p>
	<p>Siriwat Pokrajen</p> <p>Siriwat Pokrajen is a Documentation Officer at the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts. Prior to his current position, he has been a broadcast journalist, a magazine contributor and a public relations officer at an art centre. His interests lie in art and culture, human rights and LGBTQ issues. In 2015, he worked as a volunteer in the HIV Prevention and Health Promotion Unit of UNESCO Bangkok, offering support in the organizing of Thailand's commemoration of the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia. Apart from work, Siriwat has created a blog and a YouTube channel on art, design and creativity called Not A Full Baht.</p>



Sorayos Prapapan

Sorayos Prapapan started working in Thai film industry as sound recordist and foley artist. He has directed many short films which won awards in his home country and were shown in many international film festivals including Rotterdam, Busan, Clermont-Ferrand and Venice. In 2017 He made his latest short film "Death of the Soundman" which having its world premiere with Venice Film Festival, Orizzonti, and selected more than 60 Film Festivals worldwide.



Pen-ek Ratanaruang

Pen-ek Ratanaruang is one of Thailand's most celebrated film directors. He has often represented his country at international festivals, including Cannes, Berlin and Venice, and through films sent to Hollywood as Thailand's official entry to the Oscars. He is best known for his arthouse work, Last Life in the Universe, and is considered one of Thai cinema's leading 'new wave' auteurs.



Anucha Boonyawatana

Anucha Boonyawatana is a Thai independent film director and a founder of G-Motif Production, one of the largest video production company in Thailand. Her thesis film "Down The River" in 2004, combination of Buddhist philosophy and Thai art and a love story of a gay couple, won Young Thai Artist Award and has been shown at several film festivals. Her short film "Erotic Fragments No.1,2,3" was screened in competition at Berlinale Shorts of the 62th Berlin International Film Festival. Her "The Blue Hour" had its world premiere at Panorama section of Berlin International Film Festival 2015. The film acquired awards from Fantasia International Film Festival and FEST International Film Festival. In 2017, her feature film "Malila: the Farewell Flower" win the 1st Kim Jiseok Award at Busan International Film Festival. The film also won the Best Director awards from both Singapore International Film Festival and International Film Festival of Kerala, and was nominated to Asian Film Award Best New Director and Best Actor.



Sali Sasaki, Design consultant, researcher and exhibition curator

Sali Sasaki is a creative consultant working at the intersection of design, culture and international cooperation. Following an early career at UNESCO, she has produced creative workshops, conferences, exhibitions, publications and research works in collaboration with various partners internationally, focusing particularly on Southeast Asian countries.