The Kingdom of Siam and The United States signed a Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833, formalizing diplomatic relations, similar to the Bowring Treaty signed on April 18, 1855 between the Kingdom of Siam and the United Kingdom that liberalized foreign trade in Siam. Since 1856 the Kingdom of Siam and the United States have been officially establishing diplomatic relations. This has been going smoothly, resulting in benefits for both countries, and they have been cooperating cordially in terms of trade, government, education, science and technology, including complementary assistance. 2013 marks 180 Years (1833-2013) of Thai-U.S. Relations.

The United States has been continuously developing and progressing in Information Technology for a long time. On July 13, 1960, His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej provided highly significant IT inspiration to Thailand by visiting the IBM factory in San Jose, California, U.S. That event encouraged Thailand to think about using computers in the social and economic development of the country to keep abreast with developed countries.¹

The ICT Development Index (IDI) is published by the United Nations International Telecommunication Union (ITU) and is based on internationally agreed information and communication technology (ICT) indicators. It is a valuable tool for benchmarking the most important indicators which measure the Information Society. The IDI is a standard tool that governments, operators, development agencies, researchers and others can use to measure the

digital divide and compare ICT performance within, and across, countries. The ICT Development Index is based on 11 ICT indicators, grouped in three clusters: access, use and skills. Thus, the IDI can be used to indicate the varying levels of the Information Society. In 2011, the IDI ranked the U.S. at No. 15 in the world (scored 7.48 of 10) while Thailand was ranked at No. 92 (scored 3.41). The Internet World Stats found that the U.S. had 245,203,319 Internet users (as of June 30, 2012), or a penetration of 78.1% of the population (2012 est.: 313,847,465), while Thailand had about 20,100,000 Internet users (as of June 30, 2012), or a penetration of 30.0% of the population (2012 est.: 67,091,089).

On the special occasion of the 180 Years (1833-2013) of Thai-U.S. Relations, the Information and Communication Technology for All Club (ICT for All Club) as seen at www.ictforall.org, is a non-profit organization which is run in the public sector and strives to reduce the Digital Divide as much as it can. The ICT for All Club will hold the ICT for All Symposium 2013 on “180 Years (1833-2013) of Thai-U.S. Relations; ICT: Lessons Learned from the U.S.”. The Symposium’s objectives are to share knowledge and lessons learned about ICT developments in the U.S. in order to apply ICT development in Thailand.

*Acknowledgement:* Special thank to Alan Key for kindly reviewing this paper.

FOR MORE INFORMATION and Registration to participate in the conference

Please contact:

Mr. Thossaphol NORATUS
President, Information and Communication Technology for All Club
P.O. Box 2, Ratchatewi, Bangkok, 10401 KINGDOM of THAILAND
Tel. (66) 0 8126 10726
e-Mail: info@ictforall.org website: www.ictforall.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/ICTforAll.org

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Tentative Programs

ICT for All Symposium 2013 on “180 Years (1833-2013) of Thai-U.S. Relations; ICT: Lessons Learned from the U.S.”

December 21, 2013, 12:30 – 16:30 hrs.

At Conference Room 401, Software Park Thailand Building 3rd Floor
99/31 Moo 4, Chaengwattana Road, Klong Gleua,
Pakkred district, Nonthaburi province, Kingdom of Thailand

Organized by The Information and Communication Technology for All Club (ICT for All Club)

12:30 – 13:00   Registration
13:00 – 13:10   VDO presentation about HM the King providing highly significant IT inspiration for Thailand by visiting IBM factory in San Jose, California, U.S., on July 13, 1960
13:10 - 13:25   Opening Address by Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman
                CEO, Srisakdi Charmonman Institute of eLearning
                President Emeritus, Siam Technology College
                Asian Computer Man of the Year 1981
                Father of the Internet in Thailand

Report to the Chairman by Thossaphol NORATUS
                President, ICT for All Club

13:25 - 15:00  Keynote Address on "ICT Experiences in U.S. from the past to present and looking towards the future" By Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman
                And co-presented by Pornphisud Mongkhonvanit
                Rector, Siam Technology college and
                President, Thailand Chapter of the Computer Society of the IEEE

15:00 - 15:05  Present special thanks souvenir to Prof. Dr. Srisakdi Charmonman and Pompphisud Mongkhonvanit

15:05 - 16:10  Discussion (share knowledge, experiences, suggestions and recommendations) on “ICT: Lessons Learned from the U.S. & apply for ICT development in Thailand”

• Approach to Bridging the Digital Divide
• Strategies to improve the quality of life and promote lifelong learning for persons with disabilities, the elderly, and the disadvantaged in the Convergence Era

by Thossaphol NORATUS  President, ICT for All Club

16:10 - 16:30  Closing ceremony by Chana Rungsang  President, South East Bangkok College Council

NB: (1) Coffee will be served in the conference room.
(2) The symposium will be conducted in the Thai language