

# 12 CONVERSATIONS

on what UK-Thailand cultural  
relations really means



---

# ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We work with over 100 countries in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education and civil society. Last year we reached over 75 million people directly and 758 million people overall including online, broadcasts and publications. We make a positive contribution to the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. Founded in 1934 we are a UK charity governed by Royal Charter and a UK public body. We receive 15 per cent core funding grant from the UK government.

We have been in Thailand since 1952 and have six offices in Thailand; five in Bangkok and one in Chiang Mai. We are committed to developing relationships between UK and Thailand and creating opportunity through our country strategic themes of raising levels of English, internationalising higher education and science, and building a creative economy.

---

# CONTENTS

---

FOREWORD	<b>4</b>
1) H.E. Mr. Brian Davidson	<b>6</b>
2) Dr. Teerakiat Jaroensettasin	<b>8</b>
3) Dr. Suvit Maesincee	<b>10</b>
4) Ms. Disaya Sorakraikitikul	<b>12</b>
5) Prof. Suthipun Jitpimolmard	<b>14</b>
6) Prof. Steven Edwards	<b>16</b>
7) Dr. Quentin Cooper	<b>18</b>
8) Ms. Aliza Napartivaumnuay	<b>20</b>
9) Ms. Pilan Thaisuang	<b>22</b>
10) Mr. Guy Salter	<b>24</b>
11) Ms. Sara Pepper	<b>26</b>
12) Ms. Claire McColgan	<b>28</b>
THE 12 BIOGRAPHIES	<b>30</b>

# FOREWORD



The idea of this collection of conversations evolved over several months in discussion with colleagues. It arose from a desire to demonstrate what difference we make as the British Council in Thailand in the widest sense, going beyond numbers, beyond impersonal theories of change or promotional testimonials. Instead, we wanted to solicit the views, reflections and experiences of individuals we work with and, in some cases, have worked with for many years. We also wanted to capture ‘downstream stories’, often happening many years after we have made initial connections. The twelve conversations in this booklet are the realisation of this idea.

We sought a diverse group of contributors. Some are based in Thailand, some in UK and some move seamlessly between the two. They are at different stages of their careers and work in different sectors.

They work in government at the very highest level, in private enterprise and the third sector. We set out to include some people we had worked with over many years in different initiatives; others whom we may have simply inspired or helped to study in UK; and others we may have worked with less directly but whom we have supported by connecting them with people or institutions in the other country. We deliberately chose questions which both drew out commonalities and referenced the particular experiences and role of each person.

The conversations represented in this booklet are set today as we approach 2020 but often grow out of longer experiences and, at the same time, are forward looking, embracing their plans and aspirations. We hope they can equally well be read in 2030.



---

What pervades these conversations and how do they convey the essence of cultural relations – of developing long term trust and understanding - between the two countries? They touch on global issues and concerns, such as the importance of research, of understanding between peoples and finding creative solutions to challenges. At the same time they are very personal with stories which directly touch their own career or which take us to a local community. They talk about different aspects of their work and professions. However, when they refer directly to what connections between UK and Thailand mean to them, the same words and concepts come up time and time again. These words are networks, exchange of ideas and knowledge, mutuality (the very heart of The British Council's DNA), long-lasting relationships, partnerships, trust, being a catalyst, opportunity, the power of the English language and enhancing one's perceptions. I love Quentin Cooper's phrase *'cutting across cultures and countries and across individual characteristics ...'*, which somehow sums it all up.

We often use all the words in the previous paragraph about ourselves, but they are so much more powerful when reflected at us by people we engage with. These conversations are very much about the UK-Thailand relationship but I have heard so many of the same concepts expressed many times working for the British Council in eight countries in different parts of the world. I find this immensely gratifying.

I'd like to thank my colleagues for their inspiration and their involvement in this project and I hope you enjoy reading the conversations.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Andrew Glass". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andrew Glass OBE  
Director  
British Council Thailand

---

# H.E. MR. BRIAN DAVIDSON

---

## **BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND**

*"I want people to look at the UK with fresh eyes and see it as the partner of choice and for what it really is."*



## The role of an ambassador

I think the role of an ambassador is fundamentally about building relationships between two countries. But I think the underlying concept is about creating partnerships, challenging perceptions, and encouraging all those involved to be more ambitious about realising the potential between two countries. My role is about supporting the United Kingdom in all aspects of its work here. The other part of the job is more straightforward — maintaining relationships at government level between the UK and Thailand. On another level, we try to see if we can challenge the way Thai people perceive the UK, which perhaps in my view is a little too much based in the past and tends to focus on our legacy in Thailand over the last 100 years. We want to move the discussion and debate towards what the UK is now in reality and develop the potential opportunities for our two countries in the next 100 years.

## Global Britain

I guess the term “Global Britain” is a tagline surrounding the debate on Brexit and the way we are going to manage UK external relationships post-Brexit. But actually, it’s more about realising the potential of our people to become more global, and I think Global Britain means encouraging more partnerships to add value to those skills and talents. I think there is opportunity in working with emerging power countries, particularly Thailand. Thailand’s own vision is about restructuring its policies towards more knowledge-based or intellectually-based industries to reshape its economy and make it more globally competitive. And a lot of that vision is focused around new technology such as robotics, engineering, research and innovation — all of which I think fits well with the way the UK has evolved. I think the two countries are hugely complementary in terms of what the UK has to offer and what Thailand is looking for. The opportunities presented by working with a country like Thailand comes at a point in time when Thailand is looking at restructuring itself domestically to set itself apart from other countries. And I think the same is true of the UK because we always want to move forward. Clearly, the process of moving away from Europe next year means that people will start looking more enthusiastically at opportunities outside Europe in different fields. Thailand provides a strong foundation for that.

## Priorities

I would say my number one priority is to help Thailand see the UK as it is now. I think the UK is quite often seen as a traditional country. I want people to look at the UK with fresh eyes and see it as the partner of choice and for what it really is — a creative, innovative, forward-looking country — and take that perception, and apply and adapt it to whatever section they are working in. I think the idea of repositioning the UK can be used to drive these relationships, making them more forward looking - the UK and Thailand in a modern comprehensive partnership, realising the shared potential for partnerships that the countries have.

## The residence and embassy move

I think the embassy move is a chance to change the narrative. It’s a fantastic residence and speaks very much about the relationship between the UK and Thailand 100 years ago. It encourages people to look back and see the prism of our shared history. We should celebrate the link that we have. But also, we can look forward in many respects towards what we would like to create with the new residence or embassy, and talk more about the 100 years of shared potential. The fact that we have a very old building and compound isn’t really the core of our relationship. Our relationship core is about people. The new residence and embassy will focus more on looking ahead to the next 50 years. It will be more modern, reflecting the diversity in terms of culture and physicality of the UK. Our engagement with Thailand actually becomes deeper as the years go by which shows that we have ambition for this relationship. Part of that is reflected in the work the British Council does.

## British Council and relationships between countries

Personally, I would say that the key value of the British Council is its ability to bring creativity and intellect into relationships, not just regarding the work it does in education or the arts, but everything else it adds value to, and it uses that value to promote the UK. As well as the physical manifestations in terms of art collections or our culture, the British Council uses the English language to help people see the United Kingdom in a more real way. It challenges people to be more intellectual in how they view the UK or Thailand and how they can use that perception to create new networks. From the policy aspect, working with the Ministry of Education in Thailand on a radical reform of the education system, whether it’s to promote English or the way of learning, is probably the most transformational thing that could happen to any country. Changing the nature of an education system to produce a new generation of creative and innovative thinkers to lead the country in whatever direction it may be going, is probably the most important thing anyone could hope for. I think the British Council’s involvement in that policy process is invaluable. But also in other areas too - it works with social entrepreneurs and the creative industry to form links to use as the starting point for new partnerships to evolve. Like the other UK organisations here, we cannot solve the whole problem but I think the British Council creates the space for that initial conversation or contact to take place and nurtures it. This exploration of creative partnerships will ultimately lead to mutual prosperity between the countries.



---

# DR. TEERAKIAT JAROENSETTASIN

---

## MINISTER OF EDUCATION

*“A minister needs to identify himself as a leader who sees beyond what others see and chooses which road to take.”*





## Role of minister

We have to look at what a good minister should do. As a minister, when implementing any policy, the longer term impact and possible consequences of the actions taken must be carefully considered, especially concerning any potential beneficiaries. A minister needs to identify himself as a leader who sees beyond what others see and chooses which road to take. A minister has to make decisions, but no decision will be disastrous as long as it can be monitored. Sometimes, decisions can alter instantly when the context changes, but any decision made needs to be evidence-based. I think the role of a minister is about controlling the decisions made in the right way, ensuring that any decision must be made for the benefit of the country and the future of its education system.

## Education reform

Reform is different from revolution. I agree with Edmund Burke when he said that no reform has been radical. When it comes to policy, we need to build on the existing structure with tangible goals and an action plan. Achieving successful educational reform takes time, and is a gradual progress for solving the root cause. I now have approximately one year left. It's time to measure if the direction we have taken was right and consolidate the road map into an action plan. Although I look at the situation from a policy perspective, power is decentralised and we do not use a top-down strategic approach as this is vulnerable to corruption. Within the particular timeframe we have, we prioritise the areas we need to resolve — English language competency, teacher professional development internet access, and engagement with the private sector. I will spend the rest of my term consolidating the road map and developing a system which offers the least opportunity for corruption. A good and solid framework will help make the path smoother and quicker for the next minister.

## Working with the British Council

Once one individual has interacted with another, a relationship starts to be built. I think one of the most important things in a relationship is mutual respect - listening and engaging with a person to understand the essence and principles of what both parties want to achieve. The reason why we work with the British Council is, of course, their originality and expertise in all forms of English pedagogy. The British Council has a long-term presence in Thailand and a strong track record for delivering training on a national scale. We look at the same goals and know that the goal of the British Council is not for financial profit. However, this does not mean that we do not open this opportunity to other countries. In addition to the British Council, we also look at alternative options. After several discussions, we came to the conclusion that British Council is the only organisation that could deliver such large-scale teacher training in Thailand.

## Regional English Training Centres

I must first give credit to Michael David Selby; my former consultant, for the Regional English Training Centres project. When we thought about improving the English proficiency of our teachers and students, we didn't know what was working, but we knew what was not. Therefore, we looked at something which we had not done before and could potentially work for our country. The Regional English Training Centres project was nothing like we had done before so we piloted it in Pattaya on a small scale. At that time, maybe we knew it was working but we were not certain about it in the long term. After receiving good feedback from the teachers, we expanded it from one training centre in Pattaya to 15 centres across the country. We have been monitoring and evaluating the system to help maintain and improve results. Recently, I have been informed that our primary students have scored two more marks on average for English in the Ordinary National Education Test (O-NET). English was the only subject where students have done better on the national average. I don't venture to say that it's because of the Regional English Training Centres project but from my field visits, I have witnessed that the teachers are happier, more confident and enjoyed teaching English.

## Pride and happiness

Let's talk about what I'm most happy about during the one year and six months I have been the Education Minister. The first thing is the internet. How can we achieve our Thailand 4.0 economic model if the internet in schools is of poor quality? I have improved the internet connection in schools across the country so that teachers and students have better access to knowledge and information. The second thing is the Thailand Teacher Training Coupon. Teachers are given a coupon to spend on available courses for professional development. I reformed the regulations to boost the academic standing of teachers. Their academic standing will be determined through the quantity and quality of their work and performance, not just by joining seminars, doing paperwork, or writing a thesis anymore, just like pilots who must build their flight hours. My third achievement is helping to establish the Regional English Training Centres project which has transformed the way teachers teach English in Thailand. I feel happy every time I go on a field visit to a local school.

---

# DR. SUVIT MAESINCEE

---

## MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*“Thailand 4.0 is an economic model based on strength from within and connecting with the world.”*



## Role of minister

We believe that the world in the twenty-first century is driven by innovation. The role of the Ministry of Science and Technology is to build an innovation-driven economy, and talent and technology are at the heart of this. We have four top priorities to accomplish. In other words, the “Science to Build the Nation” policy.

### 1. Science to build people capacity

Careers for the future must be driven by Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM). We will embed STEM into our people. We are not just producing scientists, we also have to build a science culture and a rational society in which people’s mind-sets must change.

### 2. Science to reduce poverty

Poverty happens because we do more, but get less. Our target is to support startups and adopt science by upgrading our farm sector into Smart Farmers, Smart OTOPs<sup>1</sup> and Smart SMEs.

### 3. Science to reduce inequality

Economic concentration in big cities, especially Bangkok, leads to uneven social and economic distribution. Although the Ministry does not have many local offices, we can still distribute science and research to the regions by working together with local universities such as Chiang Mai University in the north, Khon Kaen University in the northeast and Prince Songkla University in the south. We will expand our network to cover all regions in Thailand.

### 4. Science to increase competitiveness

There will always be new challenges in the future. We want to shift from a production-based to a service-based economy, developing innovative products in the 10 targeted S-Curve industries, especially Food for the Future, Precision Medicine, and Precision Agriculture.

## Thailand 4.0 in brief

To explain it simply, Thailand 4.0 is an economic model based on strength from within and connecting with the world, meaning that we have to build our own strength from the resources we have. The key word is “transformation” for the twenty-first century. We must transform our economy to an innovation-driven economy. This is “science to build people capacity” and to increase competitiveness. At the same time, we must transform into a distributive economy. This is science to reduce poverty. Economic distribution will lead to digitisation, which in turn will lead to information democratisation. Therefore, Thailand 4.0 has three dimensions — innovation for wealth, distribution for stability and regeneration for sustainability.

## Research inside the ivory towers

Firstly, I think there are many organisations providing scholarships for researchers which do not actually respond to the country’s needs and priorities. Therefore, I have made it mandatory that the research must respond to Thailand’s economic strategy. For example, universities with expertise in smart cities will be given a fund to support their research work from ideation to prototype. We have to reorient research towards “demand side”, rather than “supply side”. It has to respond to the needs of the government and the people. Secondly, we must join forces and create a common platform for researchers. Thirdly, there is a missing link between research and society. There is a lot of work to be done about public awareness and engagement with science and research.

## Irreplaceable skills in the age of AI?

I do not think AI will replace human skills. It is complementary like a collaborative robot. I believe that humans are still more intelligent than robots because we are naturally intelligent, but robots are artificially intelligent; they lack the soft skills of heart and mind. In this disruptive world, one needs to possess three kinds of capacity — responsive, inclusive and innovative.

## International collaboration in arts and science

Arts and science are cultural. The UK is more advanced in science and technology and I think we can learn a lot from it. We can join forces in many research areas, especially in relation to the global agenda or global challenges. The Newton Fund is a good agenda-based initiative. We not only work for the benefit of the two countries but also for the region and the rest of the world. The FameLab competition is a very interesting concept because science communication involves capacity building for scientists and researchers. The UK is also a leading creative economy. I can see that we can do many things together. Not to mention the digital economy. We can go beyond just the Ministry of Science and Technology and help create business innovation.

For art and science to blend together, we have to look at ourselves and each other. We have to balance appreciation, creation and production. They are a mixture of colours. There are questions we have to ask. How do we mix or create a colour? How will we cater to human needs? These questions will lead to human interaction and then hope, happiness, and harmony. I think what the British Council is doing responds to harmony. I believe that if we join hands, we will create greater impact.

<sup>1</sup> “OTOP stands for ‘One Tambon (meaning sub-district) One Product’. It is a local entrepreneurship stimulus programme which aims to support the unique locally made and marketed products of each Thai tambon all over Thailand. OTOP products cover a large array of local products, including handicrafts, cotton and silk garments, pottery, fashion accessories, household items, and foods.”



---

# DISAYA SORAKRAIKITIKUL

---

## CREATIVE DIRECTOR / DESIGNER

*"The moment I tried fashion, I knew I did not want to do anything else.  
My passion for fashion brought me to pursue my education at the world famous  
fashion school, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design."*



## Discovering who you could be come

I personally refer to the UK as my second home. I like to travel and spend time with my family there. I knew that I wanted to study in the Arts but I was not really sure which area I wanted to major in. Fashion never crossed my mind when I was studying at high school in Thailand. I majored in science and architecture because I planned to study interior design as my family business is in this area. When I went to the UK to complete my A-levels, I had the opportunity to study an Art Foundation Course. I tried various fields of art such as interior design, fine arts, and fashion. The moment I tried fashion, I knew, I did not want to do anything else. My passion for fashion brought me to pursue my education at the world famous fashion school, Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design where I completed both my undergraduate and postgraduate studies with distinction.

Studying at CSM has helped to shape who I have become. The classroom, friends and teachers really motivate individuals to find their originality and style, which I think is really important for anyone who works in the Arts.

Learning in the UK enables students to experience variety and diversity from classmates who come from everywhere around the world. It is normal and special at the same time to have Zac Posen as your classmate or have the opportunity to train with John Galliano and Alexander McQueen.

I remember only spending a few days studying theory in class. The rest of the programme involved me having my own project with the teachers coaching me along the way. Whenever a student had a new idea or discovered new innovative techniques, the professors would just support and try to bring out the best in them. During my master's degree, I had a chance to study with Louise Wilson — the world fashion legend. She taught me to be original but also realistic and that actually helps me understand the real fashion industry.

## The Teddy Bear Girl

I am proud of all the projects I have done. However, people mostly recognise me for my outstanding project as a young designer at Central Saint Martins fashion show. It is one of the shows in the UK which all the journalists, designers and agencies attend to see the next big thing in the fashion industry. That year, I won the main award and my show was the finale. The concept of my show involved an “imaginary friend”. All the models dressed up in teddy bear outfits which could change and turn into womenswear. All the details and patterns I designed were based on the teddy bear, so I basically needed to cut a teddy bear into pieces to understand the pattern and design the show.

From that show onwards, I was known as “The Teddy Bear Girl” among the media. Receiving this award helped to strengthen my portfolio, and led to me working with a well-known agency in the UK. Having good connections and working with the right people have been important factors for bringing Disaya onto the international market. A good agent will make a brand visible among other talented and famous stylists. Disaya has been worn by world famous celebrities such as Katy Perry, Jennifer Lopez, Anne Hathaway, Paris Hilton, etc. One of my proudest moment was to see a Disaya dress worn by Amy Winehouse on her “Back to Black” cover — one of the best-selling albums.

After the passing of Amy Winehouse, the dress was sold for £43,200 at the Kerry Taylor Auctions in London. The dress was bought by the Fundacion Museo de la Moda — a fashion museum in Chile. All proceeds were donated to the Amy Winehouse Foundation.

## Driving Thai fashion to the world

The fashion industry was very young in Thailand compared with European countries when I returned from the UK, so I was one of the first in the generation to graduate with fashion degrees from abroad and came back to Thailand with the aim of growing the brand to gain worldwide recognition. I formed a team and we started building a brand to meet international standards. We exported to leading department stores in the UK and Asia. After passing the rigorous standards set by the Japanese authority, Disaya boutiques are now established in Mitsukoshi Ginza, Isetan and Hankyu, Japan.

Studying in the UK not only inspired me to build the Disaya brand but also helped me to connect with the right people. From the first day of starting Boudoir by Disaya, we are now expanding to have more of our own brands, such as Matter Makers. We are also distributors for international brands. The first brand we imported to Thailand was “Jimmy Choo” which has been one of my favourite brands since I studied in the UK.

## UK – bringing out the best potential

Had I not studied in the UK, I would have been unable to discover who I could become. Spending time there has really broadened my horizons. The UK taught me that everything is possible, but I must not stop developing myself and improve my work. University in the UK nurtured me in that way. This does not mean that I had to be in the class all the time and work tirelessly, it is more about finding originality, living life, meeting new people, and getting new inspiration. These things will help to bring out a person's best potential and is unlikely to be found in any classroom.



---

# PROF. SUTHIPUN JITPIMOLMARD, MD, FRCP

---

## **DIRECTOR OF THE THAILAND RESEARCH FUND**

*“The experience I received during my studies in the UK changed my understanding of the true value of research and its immense importance and contribution to mankind.”*





## Learning experience in the UK

In 1985, there were approximately 200 neurologists in Thailand and I was one of those who had gained outstanding academic achievement. At that time, I had several options for my career path and was strongly advised by Professor Athasit Vejajiva to pursue my career as a lecturer in neurology. The professor then recommended me to have further training at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, University of London. I was accepted as an Honorary Research Fellow at the Department of Neurosciences under the supervision of Professor P K Thomas. During my time in the UK, I had the opportunity for in-depth study into neurology and neurosciences through a research integrated approach. In the second year, I moved to the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London. I then applied for a scholarship to the British Council and eventually became a British Council fellow.

## Shaping my career

The UK is renowned for its advanced research, as well as its research funding. Many diseases have been named after the researchers who discovered or described the condition and published medical research articles, such as Wilson's disease. The experience I gained during my studies in the UK changed my understanding of the true value of research and its immense importance and contribution to mankind.

I consider the UK as my second home, and I have made many good friends, one of whom is Prof. John Newsom-Davis, MRC Action Research Professor at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine. Both Prof. John Newsom-Davis and Prof. Athasit Vejajiva nominated me for membership of the British Association of Neurologists in 1997. As far as I was aware,

there were few Thai members. Once again, they both nominated me in 2007 for a Fellowship at the Royal College of Physicians of London (FRCP). These connections have helped to reinforce further and better collaboration between partner organisations.

## Impact on the country

The Researcher Links project was first introduced to Thailand by the British Council and followed up by the Newton Fund. The decision to collaborate with the British Council was easy to make. The Thailand Research Fund agreed to be one of the Newton Fund partners in Thailand as we are certain this project will be a great success, especially since both organisations have previously worked together on many occasions. The Newton Fund has proven to be advantageous for both Thailand and the UK. For Thailand, we have made considerable advancement in research, thanks to the assistance of world-leading researchers from the UK. I believe that the publication of this research will have a greater impact on the world. We may not see an immediate change from research, but I am certain that its prominent impact will become evident in the next ten years.

## Working with the British Council

The British Council plays a very significant role in bridging Thailand and the UK. It has built a long-lasting relationship between people in the two countries. From the individual perspective, the British Council helps to maintain good relationships between organisations at social and national level. I think trust takes a long time to build, and believe this is the key to the British Council's success — building invaluable international relations between the UK and other countries around the world.

---

# PROF. STEVEN EDWARDS

---

**PRINCIPAL FELLOW OF HIGHER EDUCATION ACADEMY,  
INSTITUTE OF INTEGRATIVE BIOLOGY, FACULTY OF HEALTH AND  
LIFE SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL**

*“The Newton Fund and the British Council’s TNE programme are the prime catalysts for long-lasting partnerships. Without their support we would not be able to develop sustainable research and educational partnerships.”*



## **Bridging research and higher education**

Our collaboration with Khon Kaen University actually started as a student exchange scheme whereby students on an integrated master's programme at Liverpool University spent six weeks in the research labs at Khon Kaen. From this initial collaboration, we then learnt about our shared research interests and developed the Institutional Links Award. This successful research partnership has led to broader understanding and insight into our shared research interests and development plans to sustain and expand it. A dual award PhD programme is an ideal way to sustain this student exchange scheme and research collaborations.

## **Finding solutions for unresolved problems**

Our collaborative research with Professor Banchob Sripa at Khon Kaen University combines our expertise of innate immunity with world-leading research into liver fluke infections and the subsequent development of liver disease, ultimately leading to fatal cholangiocarcinoma. Tens of thousands of people die each year from this disease. Our research focuses on a particular unresolved problem: Why is it that only around 25% of those infected develop liver disease and only 1–2% develop cholangiocarcinoma? We hypothesised that the innate immune response contributed to these differing outcomes; those with the greatest innate immune response were “at risk” of developing serious liver disease. Liver fluke infections affect tens of millions of people worldwide, particularly poor, rural populations across the lower Mekong region. Biomarkers that identify this “high-risk” group could help target intervention strategies and potentially save thousands of lives annually.

## **Internationalising higher education and research**

The advantages are mutually beneficial. From a research perspective, Liverpool has superb technology platforms (for research projects and Thai staff training/capacity building), while Khon Kaen is firmly established as an internationally regarded centre of excellence in tropical diseases, especially liver fluke infections. Our proposed dual award programme will involve interdisciplinary research involving biochemists, molecular biologists, geneticists, clinicians, veterinarians, social scientists, etc., adopting a “One Health” approach to tackle this disease of immense socio-economic importance. The students on this TNE programme will therefore receive first rate laboratory and field-based training at both institutions, and develop the skills to tackle this problem in their home countries.

## **Improving the economy and quality of people's lives**

Over 20,000 people die each year from cholangiocarcinoma as a result of liver fluke infections and over 40 million inhabitants of the Mekong region are at risk. These “at risk” communities are amongst the most impoverished worldwide. Our research is designed to identify the high-risk individuals, and together with a sustained education programme, should save thousands of lives and enable more effective targeting of the limited healthcare resources in these regions.

## **UK and Thailand partnerships**

The research links and student exchanges with Thailand have had a positive impact on my research profile and opened up new areas that would not have been possible without these collaborations. The collaborations have also had a major, positive impact on the experiences and careers of my students. Our first collaboration was with Chulalongkorn University which now involves three of their faculties and all faculties at Liverpool. We now consider this a “deep” partnership, as it has many aspects including student exchanges, joint postgraduate programmes (master's and PhD), shared teaching, staff exchanges, as well as academic and research collaborations. We anticipate a similar “deep” relationship developing with Khon Kaen University.

The Newton Fund and the British Council's transnational education (TNE) programme are the prime catalysts for long-lasting partnerships. Without their support, we would not be able to develop sustainable research and educational partnerships.

The support of the British Council is greatly valued by our university when we are proposing new partnerships and undertaking due diligence processes. Any new partnerships promoted or supported by the British Council are usually looked upon favourably because of their reputation, thereby minimising the risks associated with new projects.



---

# DR. QUENTIN COOPER

---

**SCIENCE JOURNALIST, PRESENTER OF BBC WORLD SERVICE'S FORUM AND BBC RADIO 4'S MAIN SCIENCE PROGRAMME, MATERIAL WORLD**

*"During World War II, scientists still cut across political and geographical divides to collaborate on international projects. FameLab is another way of bringing together a world that sometimes tries to drive itself apart."*



## Science communication

Science shapes and changes every aspect of our lives. If people don't understand those changes, the risk is they can find themselves in a world that is increasingly incomprehensible. Science communicators use everyday words and ideas – rather than difficult scientific terminology and jargon – to try to explain to everyone the consequences, effects, and possibilities that science brings. Science can control our future, nature and destiny, and that is why good communication is so important — helping make that happen, and facilitating culture-led self-trust.

I don't expect the public to necessarily understand quantum physics or complex engineering concepts, but to be better able to get an overview of what's going on and why. It's important that they interact with scientists and vice versa. It's important to remember that scientists are ordinary people too and good communication shows that they are as much part of the community as everybody else.

## Climate change and the BBC series — Blue Planet II

If you ask me about the biggest scientific challenge we face it is “climate change”. We have an amazing ability as humans to see the future before it happens. Unfortunately, we also have an amazing ability to look the other way. Lots of the climate change effects will not be visible next week or next month but in 5, 10 or 50 years down the line — we can see them coming and need to do something now. But we are not good at taking action that far ahead. It's a bit like if you are in a car and a cliff is ahead, you put the brakes on. But if you are in a car where you need to apply the brakes a kilometre before you get there, you might leave it too late. Even if you know the cliff is coming. Climate change is something like that, except that even though there's a huge amount of scientific evidence, some people refuse to accept that the cliff even exists! We need to take radical action now in order to prevent drastic things happening down the line.

The BBC series — Blue Planet II, is a fantastic piece of television, the product of many years of research and meticulous filming and awash with amazing, eye-popping insights into all aspects of marine life. One lesson learned from the original Blue Planet series is that first time round they had one episode on the devastating impact of climate change on our oceans. But in some countries that episode was simply not shown – so many viewers only got to watch the episodes with pretty pictures of sea creatures but never saw the one that made clear the threat to them and the urgent need for action. This time round in Blue Planet II the programme makers have cleverly woven a little about climate change into every episode so it is impossible to watch it and not gain at least some knowledge of the perilous situation our oceans and our world are in. We need to realise that humans are now forces of nature and be aware of what we can do and how we affect the planet. I hope those who watch Blue

Planet II will see that we are part of nature and need to think about our actions, whether by pollution, changing the climate, using plastic straws or the food we eat. All these things have consequences.

## FameLab

The British Council creates enormous value around the world. It brings a variety of people together, cutting across different cultures and countries as well as individual characteristics — scientists, artists, experts, and the inexperienced. The best way to change something is to get people out of their comfort zone. We need to understand each other, not only our national or cultural differences but also jobs and expertise. I have been involved with FameLab since the very beginning over 12 years ago and it has been brilliant in changing the image of scientists. People see scientists as stereotypical old guys in white coats. Although some may be like that, they can also be young, male or female, and come from various cultural backgrounds in all parts of the world. During World War II, scientists still cut across political and geographical divides to collaborate on international projects. FameLab is another way of bringing together a world that sometimes tries to drive itself apart.

I cannot measure the amount of joy that I've experienced working with the British Council. Not only is the organisation full of amazing people, but it also changes the world for the better. Like any large organisation, it has bureaucrats, paper pushers, and red tape, but also the ideas, energy, and belief to bring people together. In this world, it's very easy to lose faith and we should try not to just focus on saying we are the best. What I like about FameLab is that it is not about who speaks the best English — many countries operate FameLab in their own language — but it shows in a very British way that it is possible to help people who might want to come to Britain and appreciate the country, without pushing the heavy-handed message that Britain is the best. The British Council brings people together and I genuinely believe that it has a positive impact at the systemic level in all countries with which it is involved. It is a force for good, especially at a time when we really need it.



---

# ALIZA NAPARTIVAUMNUAY

---

## CO-FOUNDER OF SOCIALGIVER

*"I viewed the UK as a leader in social entrepreneurship, with various models and proven success; it has ignited me to take on the challenges in establishing Socialgiver and the business grew from there."*



Venue : Novotel Bangkok Siam Square



## **The UK as an educational destination**

Although I grew up in various countries, I had never been to the UK before and thought it would be a wonderful experience for me to live somewhere completely new. Besides its academic excellence, I thought the UK would offer me a great combination of cultural heritage, diversity and a blend of city and rural life. I decided to apply for a Master Degree in Supply Engineering and Logistics at the University of Warwick.

The diversity in the classroom made the learning experience truly special and gave me the opportunity to make a lot of new friends from different countries. Some students already had relevant work experience which I found really helpful and directly contributed to my professional development. Eventually, my series of experiences became a stepping stone to a world of possibilities for developing something I believed in, and at that time, beyond my knowledge.

## **The beginning of Socialgiver**

I viewed the UK as a leader in social entrepreneurship, with various models and proven success, it has ignited me to take on the challenge of establishing Socialgiver and the business grew from there. The concept of social entrepreneurship enabled me to see how winning solutions can be created for the parties involved. At its heart is the ability to operate as a business while creating a positive social impact on the community.

At Socialgiver, we try to address the issues from three perspectives: the private sector, socially impactful projects, and our customers and beyond. Being able to tackle the challenges of all three parties allows us to resolve situations through a single transaction.

We are able to connect businesses in the service industry with online shoppers, generating funds towards creating social impact through lifestyle spending. These socially impactful projects have to clearly demonstrate their transparency and what they want to achieve. We are beyond an ordinary donation website as it connects with the service business to prosper, while at the same time is able to generate the social impact that their own customers are now demanding to see more and more. We want to be able to prove that doing good is good for business.

## **Socialgiver on the global stage**

Socialgiver has competed in national and international arenas, winning several awards such as the ASEAN Innovation for Impact, The Venture competition in Thailand, Singtel-Samsung Regional App Challenge and the Global Social Venture Competition for South East Asia, to name a few. We feel it is very important to be resilient while running any business and part of that involves being able to take on constructive criticism to help us grow and become better at what we do. We have met and are still in touch with our many mentors throughout the years who have been vital to us in being able to pinpoint our blind spots. Taking part in these events has given us a wealth of experience, and helped to expand our network through the people we meet. We believe that support, along with our ongoing commitment to providing excellent work, has somehow grown our business into what it is today.

Socialgiver is now in its third year and we are really excited about the prospect of our future growth. To date, we have made an impact on more than 45,000 lives and we hope this figure will increase substantially over the years as we grow our customers into passionate advocates of our brand. The trend for responsible businesses will keep growing with the accelerating speed of social and environmental issues, and we hope to become part of a solution that uplifts the lives of those going through times when they need help the most.

---

# PILAN THAISUANG

---

## OWNER OF A NATURAL-DYED COTTON BRAND — BHUKRAM

*“I do not want to change the way people live by shifting from farming to crafts, but rather, I want Bhukram to be part of their daily lives to help provide additional income along with agriculture.”*



## Craft and a way of life

I began my working life in an office, so “craft” was hardly relevant to me back then. After a while, I realised that “craft” is related to a “way of living” and somehow I have managed to link what I did in the past with what I do now with Bhukram — a natural-dyed cotton brand.

The ultimate goal of Bhukram is not just to sell products; it's about telling stories of the way of life, culture and environment in Phu Phan District, Sakon Nakhon Province. Each of our products has a different design, based on individual inspiration and the surrounding environment — farming, plants or flowers.

We use digital platforms to tell stories about the value of our work rather than to sell the products. We would rather let customers have the chance to see and touch our products before deciding to purchase, as they are handicrafts. Through these stories, we tell how we engage with the community in making our products, to get attention from the media. As well as being featured in general Thai media, we have also received interest from popular online media such as the Cloud. A number of foreign customers have shown interest in our products, but we also need to look at our production capacity.

## Building a brand

I was one of 20 participants of the British Council's Craft and Design Innovation Programme back in 2015. At the workshop, I met like-minded people which led to new networks and further business opportunities.

I have found the most impactful part of branding and design is finding the value of the product and its unique selling point, and this happened to be the most important aspect of setting the direction for our brand.

Originally, we only made scarves. We wanted to embroider elements of village nature for others to see, such as the natural surroundings, as expressed by the artisans in their embroidered pieces. The embroidery designs turned out to be pretty nice, and we sold a lot of our products. When we reached that point, jobs were created and the group expanded.

## Improving life quality and the community

In the first year, Bhukram had just a few members, then more people started to join in the second year when they could see that it actually helped them gain more income. Now, we have around 50 people.

In Phu Phan, agriculture is the largest generator of family income. I do not want to change the way people live by shifting from farming to crafts, but rather, I want Bhukram to be part of their daily lives to help provide additional income along with agriculture.

I started Bhukram because I missed my village and natural environment and was trying to find a job that I can actually do at home. Today, people can earn money and save without moving to the city. They are happier and I feel that Bhukram connects people to become a family again.



---

# GUY SALTER

---

## **FOUNDER OF LONDON CRAFT WEEK**

*"I believe craft is one of the things that brings out the best in human beings.  
Even if you can't always earn a lot of money, chances are you will still be happy."*





## Luxury business and crafts

The word luxury has gradually become associated with big brands. Actually, I believe that if you go back to the original idea behind luxury, there are lots of businesses, artists or makers who should be included in that description. Another thing we tend to do is put certain types of crafts, artists or makers in certain craft 'buckets'. My hope is that if when we talk about the most exceptional craftsmanship, in 10 years' time people will see this within a broader and more inclusive definition of luxury and join-the-dots more across culture, art, collecting and shopping.

Looking at crafts in the digital age, there are both significant opportunities and challenges. The opportunity for any small maker is that they should be able to make direct contact with their customers, but of course, they often get lost. There is hardly a chance for them to get noticed amongst the massive number of producers, galleries and brands online. And even for the big players acquisition costs for new customers are becoming almost prohibitive. Apart from those makers who are able to use social media in a clever way, I don't think the craft sector has even begun to fully access all the online opportunities. Personally, I don't think it will happen until we have digital intermediaries who are able to do a curation job on behalf of a selected number of makers and apply the most up-to-date techniques on their behalf.

## Global Britain and London Craft Week

Global Britain is in many ways a continuation of something the GREAT Campaign has been doing for a while now. GREAT brings together a wide range of differing examples of British creativity under the one banner. I believe that, just as fashion is a very powerful and important sector from a business point of view, as well as adding to Britain's soft power and DNA, on a smaller scale, the craft sector can do the same.

London Craft Week was started for three reasons. Firstly, independent makers struggle to make a living and 'pay the rent', let alone being able to expand or hire apprentices etc. They need more visibility and greater prestige in order to gain better access to their customers. Secondly, now I believe the world is ready to appreciate exceptional craftsmanship. After all, we have had fashion weeks and design festivals around the world for years but never a similar big moment for craft. Thirdly, I wanted to demonstrate my concept called "beyond luxury". The idea here is to create an environment in which visitors can see famous brands alongside unknown but talented artists and makers.

## On crafts collaboration in Thailand

I think there are lots of opportunities for collaboration. Thailand as a country has potential but is not fully appreciated — I'm thinking about the individual creativity of Thai people. I don't think it's fully recognized nor do I think the diversity in a city like Bangkok is fully acknowledged around the world. This is partly because Thailand is known for things such as beaches but may not be taken as seriously as it should; especially where creativity is concerned. That is why it is so exciting that we will be doing our first activation outside the UK in Bangkok next year. My hope is that this can be a platform for Thai creativity and craftsmanship, as well as showcasing the unsung heroes and places around Thailand that visitors don't always get to see.

London Craft Week is a sort of 'moment in time'. We are part of an ecosystem where different pieces fit together and if we get enough of this right it will be positive for the makers and consumers. I started another initiative 10 years ago called "Crafted", which is a mentorship scheme for very skilled craftsman to help them become better at running their own businesses. This is also part of the ecosystem. As is what the Craft Council, QEST, the Heritage Craft Association and of course the British Council do.

Looking at the economic benefits, anything which increases the exposure or prestige of makers, whether Thai or British, has got to be good for them in terms of getting more work and charging more for it. As to the cultural benefits, I think they are very important, as I believe craft is one of the things that brings out the best in human beings. Even if you can't earn a lot of money, chances are you will still be happy.

## Working with British Council Thailand

I knew Thailand very well before I started working with the British Council. I would not say British Council changed my perception of Thailand, but I think working with the British Council in Thailand has certainly opened my eyes to the amount of talent and issues around the craft sectors in the region. The British Council Thailand's exhibition as part of the London Craft Week last year was quite excellent both creatively and educationally – and eye-opening.

I think in terms of my personal experience of working with organisations around the world, the British Council Thailand has been one of the most positive. I think the team all seem to care. They have a lot of energy and do many interesting things.

We are very lucky to have the British Council — it's the most wonderful thing and has been very positive for Britain for so many years. Amazing to think it was granted its Royal Charter during the Second World War - talk about visionary thinking! I am looking forward to working with them on many things for years to come.

---

# SARA PEPPER

---

## **DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE ECONOMY, CARDIFF UNIVERSITY**

*“A hub is a great way of linking people globally but at the same time it allows individuals to act locally.”*



## **Creative hubs as a driver of the creative economy**

Creative hubs play an important role in the creative economy because they provide physical spaces and virtual environments where people who work in this area can connect to one another, find each other and potentially develop innovative opportunities. They also provide a way for people carrying out similar types of work to come together as well as those working on completely different kinds of work to connect and engage in order to develop their supply chains.

Within the creative economy there are a large number of people working freelance, from home, or in cafés or public spaces such as libraries for example. Creative hubs provide a supportive working environment for these people be they freelance, micro-business or SME as well as a ready-made community and network within.

## **Solving global challenges**

I think something that brings people together in the way that creative hubs can do, could also facilitate change and present opportunities for people to consider global challenges. With the right focus, the creative hub environment and those who work in it could really contribute to their local environment and indeed to national and global issues.

From an economic perspective, a hub can contribute to both the national and local economy. For instance, the creative economy in the UK is the fastest growing economy at the present time. The UK is an early mover in creative businesses and industries and there is strength in that. A hub is a great way of linking people globally but at the same time, it allows individuals to act locally. A lot of creative hubs in the UK have not developed from a top-down approach, but actually an organic, bottom up approach. It's really important that local or national governments understand the opportunities that hubs offer and engage with them to support this very active part of the local environment and their potential contribution to the bigger picture — locally, nationally and globally.

## **Mutual benefits**

I have visited Thailand several times before, so although not my first visit, this was my first experience of working in the country. I was fortunate to spend time working in Thailand to provide input on the brilliant efforts that are in development to make nine creative hubs across the country. I was really impressed by the people I met, going to TCDC and the hubs that I visited. My perception and understanding of creative hubs in Thailand has been significantly enhanced. When I was in Bangkok, I also had the opportunity of meeting the Minister of Science and Technology. It was interesting to discuss with him his interpretation of what culture can offer the local community as well as the wider economy across the country, and Thailand's commitment to developing nine hubs in the country through the university network. This country-wide initiative represents a significant investment in time and money. I was impressed with his thinking, approach and commitment on that scale. It is something I have not seen anywhere else before and I really hope it succeeds in view of the country's aspirations. I think there are significant opportunities going forwards for sharing information, learning from each other, and making ongoing connections between hubs in the UK and Thailand and sincerely hope we are able to achieve this.

## **Working with British Council**

My experiences of working with the British Council have always been very positive. I believe that as an organisation they really help to open up a dialogue to help people connect, not just in Thailand but globally. As a result of my work in Thailand earlier this year, I had the opportunity of welcoming a delegation from the Thai Government to Cardiff. I think the visit was extremely valuable and really made a difference to our understanding of each other's work, hopefully leading to future collaborations. These kinds of developments can only happen through relationship building and knowledge sharing activities. In today's digital world, people can connect with each other quickly and easily — however, this makes the importance of building meaningful and lasting relationships really important. I think this is something the British Council does very well — providing the opportunity to develop such relationships.



---

# CLAIRE MCCOLGAN MBE

---

## DIRECTOR OF CULTURE LIVERPOOL

*"We always use the arts as a form of social justice and get real voices heard on the stage rather than just building galleries that people need to pay for."*





## What it means to be a creative city

Our definition is about telling the city story through creativity, so it very much comes from content creation. We do a very practical thing to support the city — we fund the cultural sector very well here. We have an incredible culture to offer — seven national museums and galleries as well as numerous festivals. With continuous investment support for the sector, its ecology has grown. Another part of what we do to make it a creative city is to ensure that the physical regeneration of the city is suitable for creative industries. I think it is a combination of strategic investment in the arts and making sure that cultural organisations are strong and healthy. Major events provide “a moment” at certain points in time and paying proper regard to the physical regeneration of the city is essential. These things combined make the city creative.

In 2008, Liverpool was a very different place and required a huge amount of rapid regeneration. It has always had a huge heart and deep soul but had lost its self-belief. The time was right to show the world and the rest of the UK the city's incredible cultural heritage and fulfil its future potential. Ten years on, we are still building on that every year. We let the city's record speak for itself. Liverpool is now a much more confident city, in terms of establishing its identity and knowing what it wants to achieve.

## Solving global challenges

There are currently many more global challenges than those faced even 10 years ago. I think the biggest issue for me is to ensure that the city continues to grow and preserves its individuality. It is important that every city keeps their individual identity and residents' views are taken into account when moving forward, and addressing the issues affecting the people in the area should be taken seriously. Creativity in the city has a real opportunity to drive that change.

We are always conscious of the economic impact of culture, especially concerning our events and cultural organisation. But I think that where people want to be in the future has not yet been properly measured in the tangible sense, and the city should be a place where people feel happy to live and have sufficient leisure time. Culture more than anything else brings people together. Culture can be a real tool for challenging ignorance and differences. People may talk differently but can resolve to live happily together.

## From Liverpool to Bangkok

Cities can learn from each other — whether they be a huge multi-national city like Bangkok or a smaller city like Liverpool — the world has so much more to offer than we think. People want to travel and experience authenticity in the places they visit, and I think that is what cities can learn from each other. I also think what we do very well in Liverpool is to encourage our citizens to engage in culture. We always use the arts as a form of social justice and get real voices heard on the stage rather than just building galleries that people need to pay for.

Bangkok fizzes with creativity in its crafts, on its walls, in its food and in its chatter. It has a constant noise, a colour and vibrancy, it is a city in technicolour of the senses. And beneath that bustle and bluster there are real stories. Although Liverpool is nowhere near the geographic size or importance of Bangkok people think they know us before they arrive here, they have a particular image fuelled usually by football and the Beatles. When they come they are blown away by the architecture, the vibrancy, the art, and the sky and the sunsets over the Mersey. The way we have engaged people with this new storytelling sets us apart from other British cities and can provide learning for any city wanting to give its people a voice and a place in their future

We would love to develop a ‘digital doorways’ programme with Bangkok schools working with the British Council to give every child in our city an international experience. We would love to develop creative and digital connections with artists and communities to create great things together and explore the notions of tolerance and social justice in both our societies.

## British Council's impact

In today's world, it is an absolute necessity to be able to have a conversation that is not politically oriented — a people to people conversation generated through culture, arts, and music — a universal language bringing people together from all different cultures and places around the world in a non-political way. I think that is really important, and we need it now more than ever.

# THE 12 BIOGRAPHIES

## H.E. MR. BRIAN DAVIDSON

Brian Davidson has been the British Ambassador to Thailand since June 2016. He has extensive experience in Asia, having started his career in Beijing (1988–1992), most recently serving as Consul-General in Guangzhou and then Shanghai from 2006–2015. Other overseas posts include Lithuania and Australia. While in the UK, Brian worked for the Cabinet Office as an analyst on international terrorism and spent time on secondment to International Financial Services London as Deputy Chief Executive.



Brian holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law from Cambridge University. He speaks Mandarin Chinese, French and rusty Lithuanian and is currently studying Thai. Brian married his husband, Scott, in 2014; one of the first same-sex marriages performed at the British Embassy in Beijing. They are now the happy parents of two children.

## DR. TEERAKIAT JAREONSETTASIN

Dr. Teerakiat has been the Minister of Education in Thailand since December 2016, and a member of the education and policy development super board. He is also a Director of the Centre for Educational Psychology, Foundation of Virtuous Youth, supported by the Crown Property Bureau of Thailand.



Dr. Teerakiat works with other organisations on education, such as Cambridge English Language Assessment, Cambridge International Examinations, British Council, etc. He received an MD from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand and is a member of the UK's Royal College of Psychiatrists.

## DR. SUVIT MAESINCEE

Suvit Maesincee has been the Minister of Science and Technology of Thailand since 2017. He received his Ph.D. in Marketing from Kellogg Graduate School of Management in the United States. Prior to his current appointment, Dr. Maesincee was the Director of the Sasin Institute for Global Affairs in Thailand during 2008 – 2014.



He was also Deputy Minister of Commerce in 2015, and Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office in 2016. He is very instrumental in driving Thailand 4.0, which is a long-term national strategy to transform Thailand's economy into one that is more value-based and innovation-driven through science, technology and innovation.

## DISAYA SORAKRAIKITIKUL

Disaya Sorakraikitikul is a founder and designer for Disaya. Arriving in the UK in 1995, Disaya's obsession with fashion developed further when she decided to pursue her education at the world-renowned fashion school, Central Saint Martins College of Fashion and Design. While there, Disaya was given the opportunity to train with John Galiano and won many fashion awards in London and Paris. Her outstanding works have been featured in fashion and style magazines like Dazed & Confused UK, Tank, and Jalouse.



Having completed both undergraduate and postgraduate levels at CSM with distinction, Disaya has been highly influenced by London and the unique creative element embedded within the city. This influence is revealed in all her work and collections, illustrating her quirkiness and eccentricity alongside femininity and elegance.

## PROF. SUTTHIPUN JITPIMOLMARD

Prof. Sutthipun Jitpimolmard has been a Director of the Thailand Research Fund (TRF) since May 2013. He was Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer Affairs at Khon Kaen University, a Professor of Neurology and Consultant Neurologist at the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, as well as a Director of the Research and Development Institute, Khon Kaen University, focusing on rural development. Prior to that, he was a research fellow in neurology in various institutions such as the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine in London.



Prof. Jitpimolmard holds an MD from the Faculty of Medicine, Khon Kaen University, diplomas from the Thai Board of Neurology and in Research Methodology and Biostatistics, Khon Kaen University.

## PROF. STEVEN EDWARDS

Steven Edwards obtained his BSc and PhD at the University of Wales, Cardiff and spent periods of research in Brussels, Philadelphia, Cardiff and UMIST before moving to Liverpool. His research focuses on the control of the neutrophil function in infections and inflammatory diseases and uses a variety of molecular, physiological and biochemical approaches to understand how these cells are switched on and off in human disease. He has developed a number of international research and training partnerships.



Prof. Edwards was formerly Head of the School of Biological Sciences, School of Life Sciences and the Institute of Learning and Teaching, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences. He was also involved in programme development and quality assurance at Xi'an Jiaotong-Liverpool University Suzhou, where he was Chief Institutional Moderator for five years.

---

## DR. QUENTIN COOPER

One of the most familiar and popular voices of science in the UK, Quentin is a regular presenter of The Forum on the BBC World Service and hosts a huge and diverse range of events in the UK and abroad.



Quentin's "major contribution to the public understanding of science and engineering" has been formally recognised with honorary doctorates from Edinburgh University and Heriot-Watt University. He was made an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry. His first degree was also from Edinburgh University where he studied Artificial Intelligence and Psychology, and went on to get a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism Studies from University College Cardiff.

Quentin also hosts the UK and International finals of FameLab, rated as "the world's leading science communication competition" by the BBC World Service, and "the best time we've had in months" by Nobel Prize-winning co-discoverer of DNA James Watson.

---

## ALIZA NAPARTIVAUMNUAY

Aliza Napartivaumnuay is the co-founder and head of operations at the award-winning social enterprise, Socialgiver. She has revolutionised fundraising by tapping into consumer spending power with her vision of turning the world's spare capacity into social progress.



Aliza leads Socialgiver, along with her co-founding partner who won the British Council's Alumni Award in 2018. She has also been nominated as a Changemaker by the US State Department program and is an active member of the Young South East Asian Leader Initiative on whose behalf she was invited to meet with President Obama.

Aliza received her Master of Science Degree in Supply Engineering and Logistics from the University of Warwick, UK and a Bachelor's Degree in International Business Management from Chulalongkorn University, Thailand.

---

## PILAN THAISUANG

Pilan Thaisuang was an office worker who returned to her hometown in a small village. She started Bhukram three years ago to help villagers earn a sustainable income from making and selling organic natural dyed textiles.



After joining our craft, design and social enterprise training programme, Pilan has grown Bhukram to benefit local communities. She expanded her network to employ people with disabilities and women and girls from nearby villages.

Pilan has a BA in Tourism Management from Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, and an MA in Historic Archaeology from Silpakorn University in Bangkok.

---

## GUY SALTER

Guy Salter, OBE MVO is a long-standing specialist investor and retailer. He started out with the Arcadia Group, gradually moving from fast fashion to luxury, with a spell in between working for HRH The Prince of Wales. Guy has been CEO or an investor in a range of retail and technology businesses, including the Asprey Group, Bazaarvoice, Laurent-Perrier Champagne, Tanner Krolle, Garrard and, most recently, Monica Vinader, Nyetimber, and Hamilton and Hare.



His pro bono work includes fifteen years leading Walpole, which represents the British luxury industry. In 2015, he founded London Craft Week, the annual "Beyond Luxury" Showcase with over 230 events spread across London. In 2012 the Prime Minister appointed him Vice Chairman of the GREAT Britain Campaign and he is also Chairman of the GREAT Festival of Innovation in Hong Kong.

---

## SARA PEPPER

Sara Pepper has been a Director of Creative Economy at Cardiff University since July 2014. She is currently also a member of the British Council UK Hubs Steering Group, the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales Advisory Group, the Dahl 100 Wales Steering Group, and the Cardiff Book Festival Advisory Group.



She has experience in both the creative and higher education sectors, working locally, nationally and internationally. She has held a wide variety of posts from producer to project manager for organisations such as the Southbank Centre, the BBC, the Wales Millennium Centre, Hull University School of Arts and New Media, and the Sydney Olympic Games 2000.

In 2006 she received a Master's Degree in Theatre and Contemporary Practice from Hull University. In 2008 she was the recipient of the first Cultural Leadership Programme Peach Placement in Wales.

---

## CLAIRE MCCOLGAN

Since 2009, Claire McColgan has been a Director of Culture Liverpool, responsible for Legacy, Major Events, Liverpool Film Office, Cruise Liverpool, Tourism, City Halls and Cultural Policy.



She developed the successful participation programme (Creative Communities), was instrumental in Liverpool winning the transformative European Capital of Culture bid, and awarded an MBE for services to the arts in 2009. She has led the legacy programme in Liverpool for the last 10 years. She sits on the City Regions Cultural Partnership and the Visitor Economy Board. She is a national and international advisor on best practice in Culture acting for Arts Council England and Ireland, the British Council, Local Government Association and as consultant advisor to the London Borough of Culture programme.

Claire is the European Board Director for Galway European Capital of Culture 2020. She was chosen by Karen Bradley, Secretary of State as the UK expert for the 2022 European Capital of Culture competition.



## **British Council**

254 Chulalongkorn Soi 64, Siam Square,  
Phayathai Road, Pathumwan, Bangkok 10330

T +66 (0) 2 657 5678

F +66 (0) 2 253 5311

Website: [www.britishcouncil.or.th](http://www.britishcouncil.or.th)

Email : [info@britishcouncil.or.th](mailto:info@britishcouncil.or.th)

### **Follow us on**

Facebook: [BritishCouncilThailand](#)

Twitter: [@thBritish](#)



---

© British Council 2018

The British Council is the United Kingdom's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities.