

A summary of the special lecture in celebration of
the 150th Anniversary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
“Encoding The World on Stage: ไทยกับบริบทโลกใหม่ การทูตควรทำอย่างไร”

While diverse conflicts occur in our modern world and cause further severe impacts globally, diplomacy serves as a crucial and powerful tool that helps develop relationships as well as provide benefits from them between many countries in the world. This lecture mainly discusses on how the shift of policies and systems in the United States made by current US president Donald Trump leads to changes on wider scales.

Dr. Surachat Bumrungsuk from Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University shares his view that new normal (บริบทโลกใหม่) refers to the circumstances when President Trump do away with existing systems and beliefs in the United States and replaces them with his own ideas that are significantly opposite, leading to dramatic changes in the United States and other countries around the world, including Thailand. Despite how the United States is one of the most powerful nations and had been trading with different countries, several things have been altered after the second term of President Trump. He applies the idea of deglobalization by almost locking down the country and reducing international obligations unless the United States has an advantage. Moreover, due to President Trump's belief in utilizing tariff wall as a device to protect the country from potential disadvantages, he announces tariffs policy, raising tariffs on the import products, which results in trade war and other wars that accelerate the great power competition between the United States and China.

Dr. Supawut Saichuea, Chairman of the National Economic and Social Development Council, also supports how President Trump's policy emphasizes and deepens the conflict between these two nations by explaining US attempts to raise tariffs, especially on China's exports, and move the production base or factory outside of China. By doing this, he assumes to create jobs and industries for populations in the United States.

Besides China, Thailand is also considerably affected by this situation. While the dispute between the United States and China lifted the rates of Thai exports to the United States in the

past, Trump's idea of deglobalization notably results in the rapid downfall of Thai exports to the United States. After the dramatic impacts numerous nations got from the United States, Thailand and many countries adapt to connect without it, such as ASEAN and OPEC.

To deal with this situation and avoid further potential negative consequences, both speakers suggest Thai diplomacy stay neutral. Rather than choosing sides or getting involved in the issues, Thailand should always approach and build relationships with every country. Furthermore, we should also create and strengthen the importance and relevance of Thailand on the world stage by developing what we are famous for, such as services like tourism and healthcare, as well as food that has often been imported in various nations at significant rates. Consequently, Thailand will gain attention, leading to further vital roles and power on the world stage.

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