



วารสารข่าว

สำนักงานหนังสือเดินทางชั่วคราว ขอนแก่น
ฉบับที่ 1 ประจำเดือนมกราคม พ.ศ. 2559

ศาลากลางจังหวัด (ชั้น1) ถนนหน้าเมือง อำเภอเมือง จังหวัดขอนแก่น 40000
โทรศัพท์ 043-242-655 โทรสาร 043-243-441

สำนักงานหนังสือเดินทางชั่วคราว ขอนแก่น ได้ให้บริการการจัดทำหนังสือเดินทางแก่ประชาชนในจังหวัดขอนแก่นและจังหวัดใกล้เคียงในเดือนธันวาคม ดังนี้

รายการ	จำนวน
หนังสือเดินทางธรรมดา	5,774 ราย
หนังสือเดินทางราชการ	22 ราย
หนังสือเดินทางเล่มด่วน	20 ราย
การบันทึกแก้ไขหนังสือเดินทาง	20 ราย
รวม	5,836 ราย

สำนักงานฯ ได้ปฏิบัติภารกิจรองอื่นๆ ดังนี้

1. งานคุ้มครองดูแลคนไทยในต่างประเทศในเชิงรุก (การเตรียมความพร้อมและการเตือนภัยล่วงหน้าสำหรับคนไทยในพื้นที่ที่จะเดินทางไปต่างประเทศ)
2. การเผยแพร่บทบาทและผลงานของกระทรวงการต่างประเทศ
3. ประสานให้ความร่วมมือและสนับสนุนงานราชการส่วนภูมิภาคและท้องถิ่น
4. ถ่ายทอดองค์ความรู้ด้านการต่างประเทศให้ส่วนราชการ สถาบันการศึกษา และประชาชนในท้องถิ่น
5. สนองนโยบายรัฐบาลซึ่งเป็นวาระแห่งชาติในการอนุรักษ์ความเป็นไทยและป้องกันการค้ำมนุษย์

กิจกรรมและความเคลื่อนไหว

1. วันที่ 3 ธันวาคม 2558 ร่วมพิธีสมโภชพระธาตุเจดีย์นครเดิม เถลิงพระเกียรติ พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัว เนื่องในโอกาสสมหามงคลเฉลิมพระชนมพรรษา 5 ธันวาคม 2558 ณ วัดธาตุ พระอารามหลวง จังหวัดขอนแก่น



2. วันที่ 5 ธันวาคม 2558 ร่วมพิธีทำบุญตักบาตรถวายเป็นพระราชกุศลแด่ พระบาทสมเด็จพระเจ้าอยู่หัว ณ ศาลหลักเมือง จังหวัดขอนแก่น



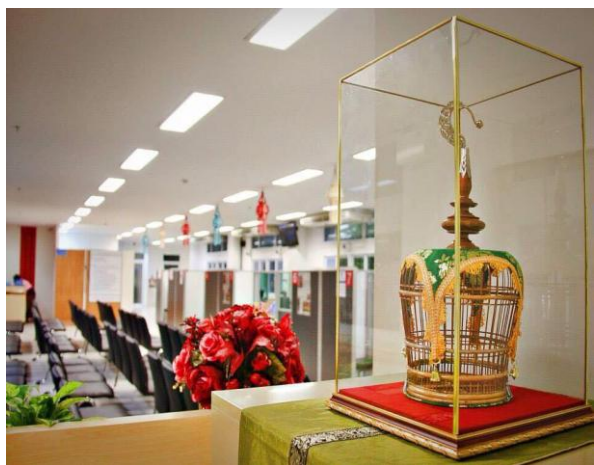
3.วันที่ 16 ธันวาคม 2558 ร่วมพิธีน้อมส่งเสด็จสู่พระนิพพาน สมเด็จพระญาณสังวร สมเด็จพระสังฆราช สกลมหาสังฆปริณายก ณ วัดป่าแสงอรุณ จังหวัดขอนแก่น



4.วันที่ 22 ธันวาคม 2558 เข้าร่วมประชุมการป้องกันและปราบปรามการค้ามนุษย์ จัดโดยสำนักงานพัฒนาสังคมและความมั่นคงของมนุษย์ จังหวัดขอนแก่น



5.วันที่ 1-31 ธันวาคม 2558 สำนักงานหนังสือเดินทางชั่วคราว ขอนแก่น
รณรงค์การอนุรักษ์การแต่งกายด้วยผ้าไทยอย่างต่อเนื่อง (ทุกวันจันทร์และวัน
พฤหัสบดีของสัปดาห์) และตกแต่งสำนักงานด้วยผลิตภัณฑ์ OTOP เพื่อสร้าง
บรรยากาศความเป็นไทย





Swangwat Srirattakorn, chief of the temporary passport office in Khao Kaen, says still wearing traditional office of work is not a fashion statement. It is a way of making locals more comfortable about entering the office. PHOTOS BY CHANANTHORN KAMJAN

InPERSON

The clothes that fit

Passport office staff swap stodgy uniforms for traditional dress to make themselves more approachable, writes Chanthorn Kamjan

"My aunt and my older sisters went to the shops in the village. They pressed for me to take the university entrance exam because they simply wouldn't be able to afford the education fees if I passed the test. But I did pass," he said.

Mr Swangwat studied at the faculty of arts, Chulalongkorn University, majoring in English.

At the university, Mr Swangwat joined the association of students from the Northeast, which kept him in touch with his roots.

"The association made me feel like there was a home away from home — I learned to sing folk songs and taking camps occasionally... I have then that I had fallen for traditional things, Thai things," he said.

"I've loved wearing Thai clothes since I was a student. The Thai religious fabrics are inexpensive and many people around me express appreciation of them," he added.

It launched a love affair with fabrics as he was particularly drawn to the alluring sheen and texture of Thai silk.

"Thai silk is in my closet and is a statement I make at my workplace," he said.

That traditional fabric, including silk, ran in his veins, so to speak. Since he was young, his family favored rice for a long while making silk fabric as another activity that his mother and female relatives did in their spare time.

"The process of making Thai silk is fantastic, from spinning the strand until we obtain the gorgeous silk. That is why I am in love with the fabric and I hope it is reflected in my workplace," he said.

As a diplomat posted to various countries, including Germany and France, Mr Swangwat said the Thai identity — which is manifest in various forms, especially Thai dress — is admired by foreigners and Thai should be proud of it.

He said that traditional costumes turn heads.

"During my postings to Germany and France, which is known to be the world's best known brand names and haute couture, whenever we wore Thai outfits people came to us and expressed their appreciation," he said.

Thai officials at diplomatic missions overseas wear Thai traditional dress on ceremonial occasions and on Dec 4, the eve of His Majesty the King's birthday which is also national day.

However, that attire could be worn every day in Thailand, Mr Swangwat said.

"We cannot know all Thai women in the northeast costume every day, but I can start with my own and tell the people around me," he said, adding the idea was to show the citizens that government workers abroad still care and were interested in their traditional dress and culture.

The Chiang Mai passport office was the first to experiment with traditional dress and it wasn't long before staff in other cities in Thailand were familiar with the idea.

After Chiang Mai, he was named head of the passport office in the far southern province of Yala where security and a stark cultural difference were issues he had to consider.

Tight security made people tense about contact with the authorities. The passport office staff were also doing their jobs under heavy protection and surveillance. It was not the kind of relaxing environment he enjoyed in Chiang Mai.

About 10 military personnel are deployed at the passport office, which is located in the Southern Border Provinces Administrative Centre. Visitors are subject to screening before they enter the building.

Mr Swangwat said despite the volatile security environment, staff still donned Muslim dress and outfits at work in the hope of at least reducing the gap between the state and the predominantly Muslim locals, who speak a different dialect.

Assimilation is regarded as a prime factor in the continued hostility in the far South.

Mr Swangwat said he was hesitant at first to introduce the local dress code

for his staff. But after giving it deep thought, he decided to "asked my staff to wear local Muslim clothing, like Modems. I explained to them that we are the same people."

However, some locals maintained a distance because of stereotypes which affect them as they walk into the office.

Mr Swangwat said even though the Yala office has a high rate to reduce the cultural gap, wearing local attire does pay off.

"I can tell from the way they look at us that they like us. Mr Swangwat says he wanted to stay longer in Yala using a relationship-building approach, but was called back to being shifted to Khao Kaen.



It's nice to build up a spirit of oneness through Thai dress and traditional decoration

SWANGWAT SRIRATTAKORN
CHIEF OF THE KHAO KAEK TEMPORARY PASSPORT OFFICE

Clothes can have a profound effect on weaving the hearts and minds of people and in bridging down any invisible walls between them, one diplomat has found.

According to Swangwat Srirattakorn, an experienced diplomat who is the current chief of the temporary passport office in Khao Kaen, proper attire establishes standards that help in optimizing workplace efficiency.

"I think appearance is a form of non-verbal communication that either opens the way to productive conversation or produces the opposite," he said. He believes this is true for providers of public services and in something civil servants with regular contact with the general public should take stock of.

When he was designated chief of the passport office in Khao Kaen, he knew the appearance of the uniformed staff had to change.

Mr Swangwat believes changing the appearance of the staff was not superficial or an occupational expediency as it reflected the distance between them and people who lived far from their paperwork.

In fact, changing out of uniforms, but more details about how they helped speed up work at the office. He notes that people were less tense when they walk into the office and see female staff in modest and traditionally-dressed women blouses and the male officials in typical northeastern style shirts and trousers.

Mr Swangwat has discovered that clothes are a great ice-breaker. The Thai "culture of uniforms" has long been associated with a sense of superiority in society. A uniform can segregate state officials, who are seen as being on a higher social rung, from the people.

If a uniform breeds alienation, then it's time to do away it, says Mr Swangwat. He is putting the theory to the test in the Khao Kaen passport office and has witnessed quite a positive result.

More people chat with the staff as they come through the office door. The impression the staff have is that visitors appear to feel more at home and find that the officials are just "one of them".

Mr Swangwat said the temporary passport office in Khao Kaen is one of 14 run by the Consular Affairs Department. About 95,000 people apply for passports through the office each year. It is one of the "frontline" government offices that people have direct contact with.

"This is the main provincial passport office for the northeast. People mostly in the lean midland come to apply for passports here as it is very convenient.

"So it's nice to build up a spirit of oneness through Thai dress and traditional decorations (in the office) which I choose as an aid," he said.

Mr Swangwat said he wanted to rebrand the passport office, turning it from a rigid, machine-looking government agency into one who has the features of what could be called a "homier office" that showcases the local Thai identity, from attire to stationery.

He was once told by a colleague not to bother changing the status quo.

"One of my colleagues said the workplace is just a place where people come to do their work and leave after the job is done," Mr Swangwat said.

"The bills and decorations are unnecessary. But I have a different opinion since I believe that the workplace can be our second home."

Spacing up the office with flowers and being surrounded by staff clad in local dress made with silk and cotton, Mr Swangwat said, can break the tradition of uniformity and house the local identity.

When he moved from the southernmost province of Yala to Khao Kaen, Mr Swangwat discovered home an important mes-



A man applying for a passport is served by staff members

