

CONSAL XVI Outstanding Librarian Award — Gold Prize

Professor Dr. Chutima Sacchanand



The Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL) awarded the CONSAL XVI Outstanding Librarian Award – Gold Prize to Professor Dr. Chutima Sacchanand, School of Liberal Arts at Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University. The award is entitled to librarians and professionals in the region who continuously strive for professional development. The award was presented at the CONSAL meeting at BITEC Bangna, Bangkok, on 12 June 2015.

Here's an insightful interview with our awardee!

Could you please tell us briefly about CONSAL?

CONSAL or its full name, the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians, was founded in 1970 in response to a growing sense of Southeast Asian identity, fostered particularly by the formation of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). CONSAL has 10 member countries in the region. The CONSAL Executive Board comprises of Director of the National Library and President of the Library Association of each member country. CONSAL holds a conference **every three years** in each member country by turn. It promotes cooperation in the fields of librarianship, bibliography, documentation and related activities. Another hallmark of CONSAL, CONSAL Outstanding Librarian Award is to honor professionals who has made significant contribution to the library profession, or to improving the relationship among libraries of the CONSAL member countries.

What has been your role or support to CONSAL?

As the President of the Thai Library Association during the year 1997 – 1998 and 2007–2009, I became a member of the executive board, Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians by position. We worked hard during that time to improve the relationship among libraries, librarians, LIS educators and professionals among the CONSAL member countries to respond to a growing sense of Southeast Asian identity. Up until now, I continuously contribute to CONSAL, especially in the field of LIS education and continuing professional development.

How did you participate in the CONSAL XVI Outstanding Librarian Award?

The Thai Library Association, in the name of Thailand, nominated my name for the CONSAL 2015 Outstanding Librarian Award and CONSAL Executive Board appointed the panel of judge. This year, I got the gold prize and four professionals from Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam got the silver prizes.

What do you think are the most important factors that made you successful?

I work at STOU for 30 years and gained a lot of knowledge and experience from here, especially in distance education. I have also a great opportunity to make valuable contributions to STOU in the development of Information Science program at Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degree program using distance education mode which is the hallmark of LIS education in the region, in my multiple roles of professor, educator, researcher and leader.

With reference to the citation of CONSAL announced on the day that I received the award, I will quote some parts of it as follows:

"She has been at the forefront in LIS education in Thailand and the region and was among its pioneers, especially in the field of distance librarianship, which has had a significant impact on the LIS profession, especially staff development."

"She has promoted research through her papers and lectures and has encouraged librarians to be aware of the importance and need for research. She believes that librarians acting as practitioner-researchers can raise the status of the profession."

"Through her strong national, regional and international collaborative partnerships and networks, as well as her strong knowledge and experience she has contributed to setting a new direction for LIS education, libraries and librarianship generally."

"The many awards given to her reflect the recognition of her distinguished roles, services and achievement at the national, regional and international levels. This presentation of the CONSAL XVI Outstanding Librarian Award – **Gold Prize** is an opportunity for the LIS community in Thailand and the ASEAN region to acknowledge her commitment to the profession and the region."

What words of advice would you give to teachers and librarians of younger generations?

My hard work, commitment, continuous contribution and dedication for the organization, profession and the society without hoping for any reward in return. I strongly wish that the award I got will inspire the young generations in the profession to dedicate, commit and contribute more and more to the profession and the Thai and ASEAN community.



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