

Welcome Ceremony (Bai-Sri-Su-Kwan) Schedule

20 August 2015

at Conference Room, 5th Floor,

Chalerm Prakiat Building

Date/Time	Activity
13.00 – 13.15 hr.	- Report by Deputy Dean for Student Affairs and Special Activity - Opening and Guidance Speech by Dean
13.15 – 14.00 hr.	- Welcome Speech by representative student (Dr. Myo) - Bai Sri Su Kwan Ceremony (Palang / Atapol / Wilarat / Ubonwan)
14.00 – 14.50 hr.	- Preparing for Freshy night (Friday 21 st August) between senior and freshy (Wiriya / Jom)
14.50 - 15.00 hr.	Move to take a group photo with lecturers at the Quinine Park, 1 st floor, side of Sornchai Looareesuwan Building

MC: Wiriya & Nicharee

Dress code: North-East Thai Costume ชุดอีสาน

The rite of Bai Sri Su Kwun

The rite of Bai Sri Su Kwun, which its origin is still unclear, is preceded by a person called "Mor Kwun"(a witch doctor), who cannot tell us either when this ritual activity first began. Presumably, it could begin since the very old time. Thais believe that all individuals has their own natural resource called Kwun (Spirits), which would take care of them throughout their time of living at anywhere they are.

The word "**Kwun**" is intangible i.e. it is invisible and untouchable, but it is noticeable by feelings. If one's Kwun was still with him/her, he/she would normally feel happy. In contrary, if one's Kwun was not with them, one would feel differently. Thai people believe that the rite of Bai Sri Su Kwun is a ritual activity that would encourage their mental strength. The strong mind would support them to, as they wished, succeed their tasks.

The word "**Bai Sri**" means auspicious rice, a symbol of lives related ceremony. Bai Sri is made of banana leaves stitched into three levels, that contain rice, and essential elements, which are lotus, prosperous candle, young coconut juice, 3 candle trays, 9 ordinary candles, and a white holy string. Bai Sri, in this occasion, represents the society must strongly hold on 3 moral principles. **3 levels of Bai Sri** represent

1. Physically well behave
2. Verbally well behave
3. Mentally well behave

Lotus represents 4 groups of lotus and, here, emphasize on the 4th group that rise above the water surface, ready to bloom when the sun rises.

Prosperous candle represents brightness and wisdom.

Young coconut juice represents pure minds.

3 candle trays represent the 3 worlds; physics, image, and non-image.

9 ordinary candles represent 3 sets of fire.

1. Fire is Raka (craving)
2. Fire is Tosa (anger)
3. Fire is Moha (rage)

A white holy string represents a hoop of commitment.

In summary, Kwun is a symbol of Thai lifestyle since the ancient time. Kwun is only with alive person, that is, the dead people no longer possess Kwun. The purpose of calling back Kwun or the rite of

treating Kwun (Tum Kwun) is to bring happiness and auspiciousness in order to happily live in the present society.